

MARVEL

310

CHIP ZDARSKY

PETER PARKER: THE SPECTACULAR
SPIDER-MAN



PETER PARKER: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

Hi! I'm totally new here and not the same voice as last time, avoiding further emotional investment through dissembling! Please explain all the Spider-Lore I'll need to understand and appreciate this issue, starting with **AMAZING FANTASY #15**, and going up through, say, that issue from last month with the dirt guy.

Do you mean Sandman--

Yeah, yeah, the Great Dustbowl. I followed all that, so it's just the other stuff I need a rundown on. Actually, can you do this in the form of a twenty-second video?

Did you read those last issues all the way through? Now that you mention it, though, I do a mean shadow-puppet show! Look over there!

Are you for real? I--oh! Oh gosh... It's...it's beautiful! Maybe I didn't fully appreciate that Sandman story--I'm going to call my own fiery-tempered old friend and then read issues #308 and #309 again!

As should we all! But read this one first! You don't need to know any of that stuff for this one. Listen: Some years ago, Peter Parker got super-powers by accident, and he used those to become the guy you know as SPIDER-MAN!

FINALE

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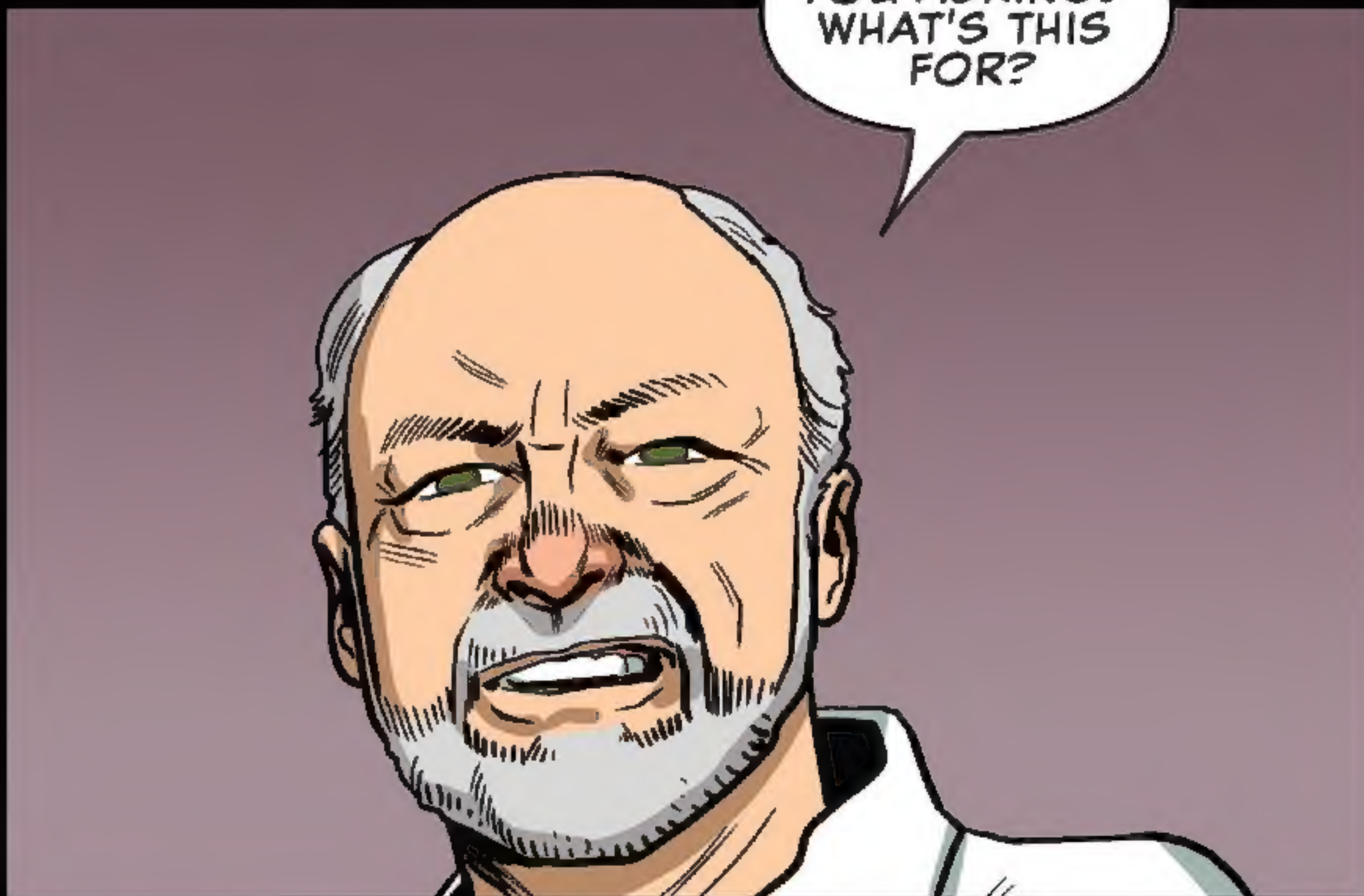
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
ALAN FINE

SPIDER-MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO

WHAT?
WHAT DO
I THINK OF
SPIDER-
MAN?

I DON'T
KNOW. HE'S A
WEIRDO?

WHY ARE
YOU ASKING?
WHAT'S THIS
FOR?



I HEARD
HE WAS, LIKE, A
TEENAGER WHEN
HE STARTED? IS
THAT TRUE?

I GET A KID
WEARING THAT
COSTUME, BUT
ISN'T HE--ISN'T HE
TOO OLD FOR
IT NOW?



SPIDER-MAN?
THAT GUY'S THE BEST!
LITERALLY LIFTED MY CAR
TO THE SHOP WHEN IT
BROKE DOWN ON 6TH! AND
I'M USING "LITERALLY"
THE RIGHT WAY,
YEAH?

I TRIED TO
PAY HIM! BUT HE
ONLY TOOK CHANGE
FOR THE SUBWAY 'CAUSE
HIS "ARMS WERE TIRED"
AND HE DIDN'T HAVE
POCKETS!



--HIT A-A-A
VAMPIRE OR
SOMETHING WITH
MY CAR AND
THEN RAN
AWAY!

SO, WHAT DO I
THINK OF SPIDER-MAN?
I THINK I'LL SEE HIM IN
#\$% COURT IF I EVER COME
ACROSS HIM AGAIN! MY
DAD'S A LAWYER AND
HE SAYS--



--I'M SORRY?
SPIDER-MAN?

I--
HE'S--



SPIDER-MAN
IS AMAZING.









...SPIDER-MAN
THOUGHT...HE THOUGHT
THE SCARE WAS ENOUGH.
THAT HE DIDN'T NEED A
RECORD TO HOUND HIM FOR
YEARS, THREATENING
HIS FUTURE...

KYLE
GOT FIFTY
BUCKS FROM
TWO GUYS TO
BE A LOOKOUT
WHILE THEY
ROBBED A
STORE...



SPIDER-MAN
BROUGHT HIM
BACK HOME
TO ME.

I'LL
ALWAYS
BE THANKFUL
TO HIM FOR
THAT.



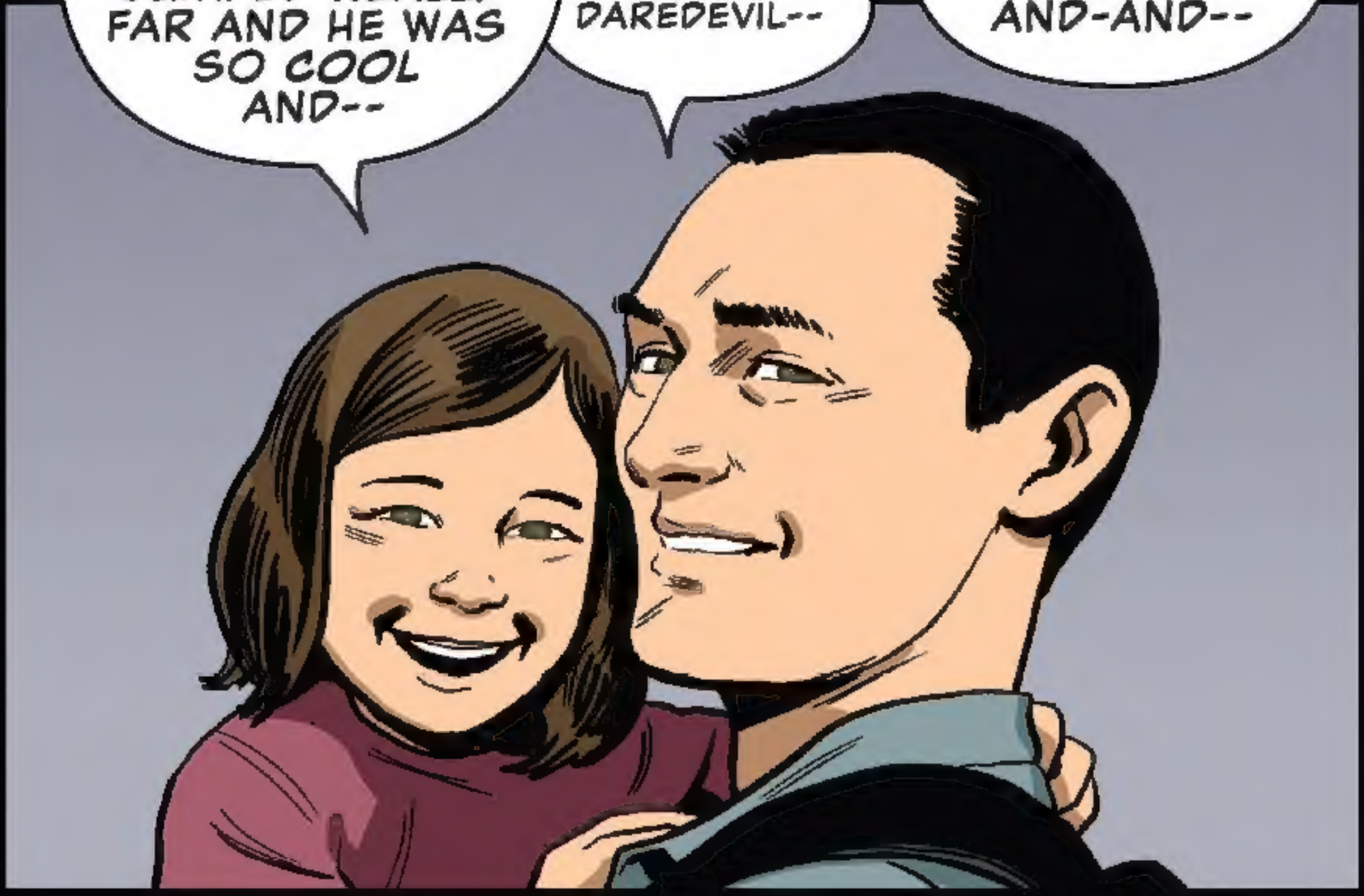
SPIDER-MAN?
GUY'S A FREAK.
BUT HEY, WHO AM
I TO JUDGE? ON
THE WEEKENDS
I--



--I SAW
SPIDEY ONCE!
HE WAS FIGHTIN'
A MAN WITH LONG
LEGS AND SPIDEY
JUMPED REALLY
FAR AND HE WAS
SO COOL
AND--

--IT WAS
DAREDEVIL--

--AND
HE THREW A
SPIDER-STICK
AT HIM AND--
AND--AND--



HE SEEMS
LIKE A GOOD
BOY. HELPED ME
HOME WITH MY
GROCERIES WHEN
MY BAG BROKE.
USED HIS WEBS
TO MAKE NEW
BAGS...

...BUT I
HAD TO WAIT
TOO LONG FOR
HIS WEBBING TO
DISAPPEAR AND
MY ICE CREAM
MELTED...

ALSO,
HIS WEBBING
LEAVES A WEIRD
ODOR? IT
WASN'T VERY
PLEASANT...



SPIDER-MAN?
YEAH, I GOT SOME
THOUGHTS ON SPIDER-
MAN. SEE THE GUY
ALMOST EVERY
DAY!





I--HE SAVED ME! AND DON'T GET ME WRONG, IT WAS MY CHOICE TO OFFER HIM FREE HOT DOGS FOR LIFE!

BUT... BUT EVERY DAY WITH THIS?!



HE'S FINE, I GUESS. SEEMS DESPERATE.



I DON'T LIKE HIM.

MASKED MEN SPYING ON CITIZENS FROM THE SKIES? JUST WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO DO SOMETHING WRONG?

IT'S NOT THE KIND OF WORLD I WANT TO LIVE IN.



BEAUTIFULLY SELFLESS. HOW MANY OF US WOULD USE THEIR POWERS TO GET RICH? HE COULD DO ALMOST ANYTHING FOR MONEY WITH THOSE ABILITIES, BUT HE DOESN'T. HE HELPS PEOPLE.

I'M SORRY? HOW DO I KNOW HE DOESN'T MAKE MONEY?



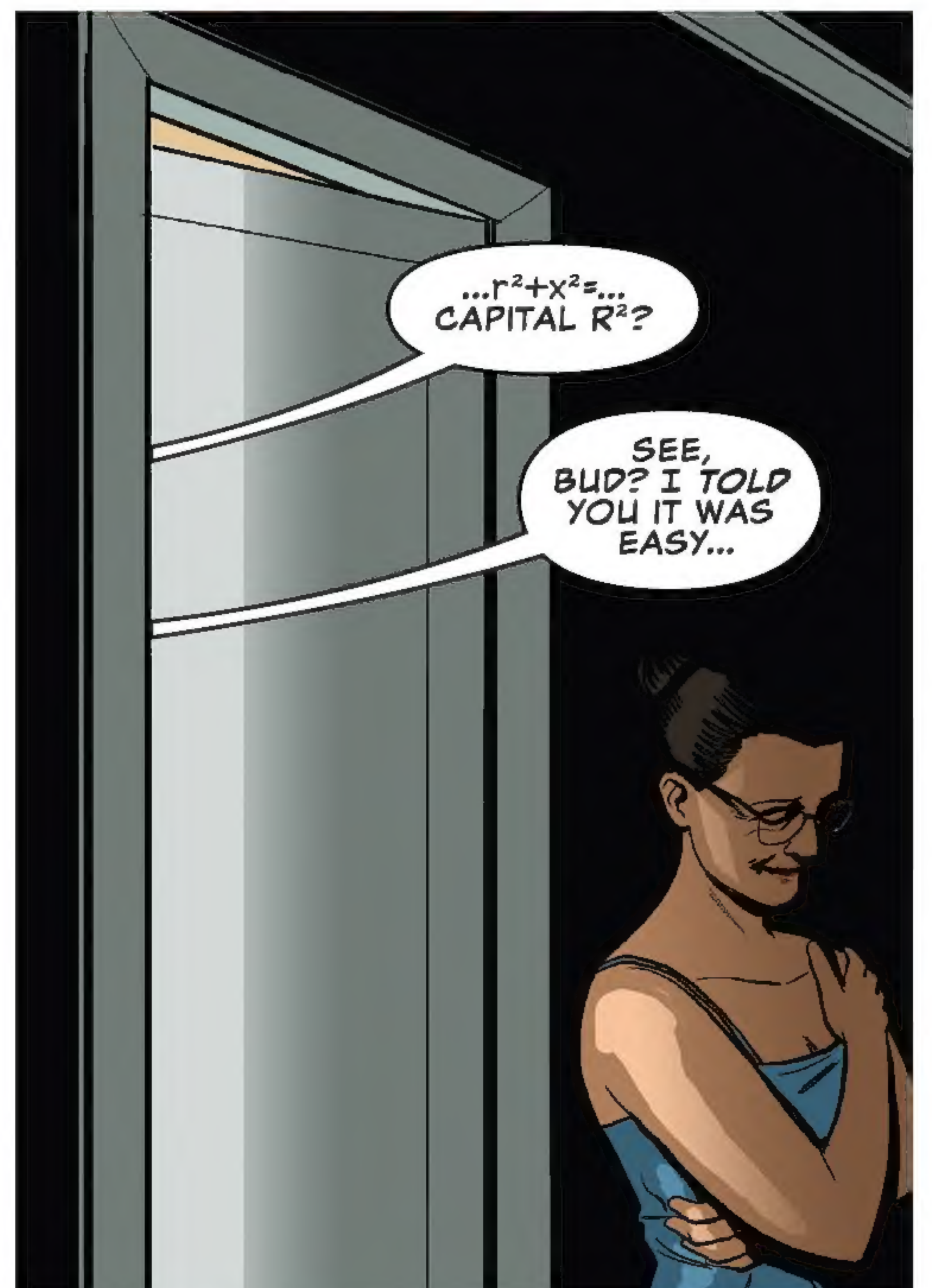
KYLE CHANGED AFTER MEETING SPIDER-MAN. HE USED TO BE PRETTY ANGRY. HIS DAD WAS...WELL, HIS DAD WAS IN PRISON. SO IT WASN'T THE EASIEST AT HOME.

BUT AFTER SPIDER-MAN... HE WAS BETTER... KINDER. WAS EVEN GETTING BETTER GRADES.

AND YEAH, I DO THINK HE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT...

I SEE HIM ALMOST EVERY DAY EATING FREE HOT DOGS.





HE ACTS LIKE
EVERYTHING IS SO EASY.
SURE, KNOCK OUT SOME
MUGGER AND LEAVE A NOTE. IT'S
GUYS LIKE ME WHO HAVE TO
DO THE PAPERWORK AND
TESTIFY IN COURT.

SPIDER-MAN'S
A JOKE.



SPIDER-MAN'S
A HERO. I UNDERSTAND
A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE PUT
OFF BY HIS MASK, AND HIS...
COMEDIC SENSIBILITIES...
BUT IN MY
OPINION?

HE'S
ONE OF THE
GREATEST MEN
I'VE EVER
KNOWN.



SPIDER-MAN
IS BAD.



SPIDER-MAN
HELPED MY SON.
HE'S A GOOD MAN.
I'LL ALWAYS FEEL
INDEBTED TO...

...HE
DIDN'T
KNOW...

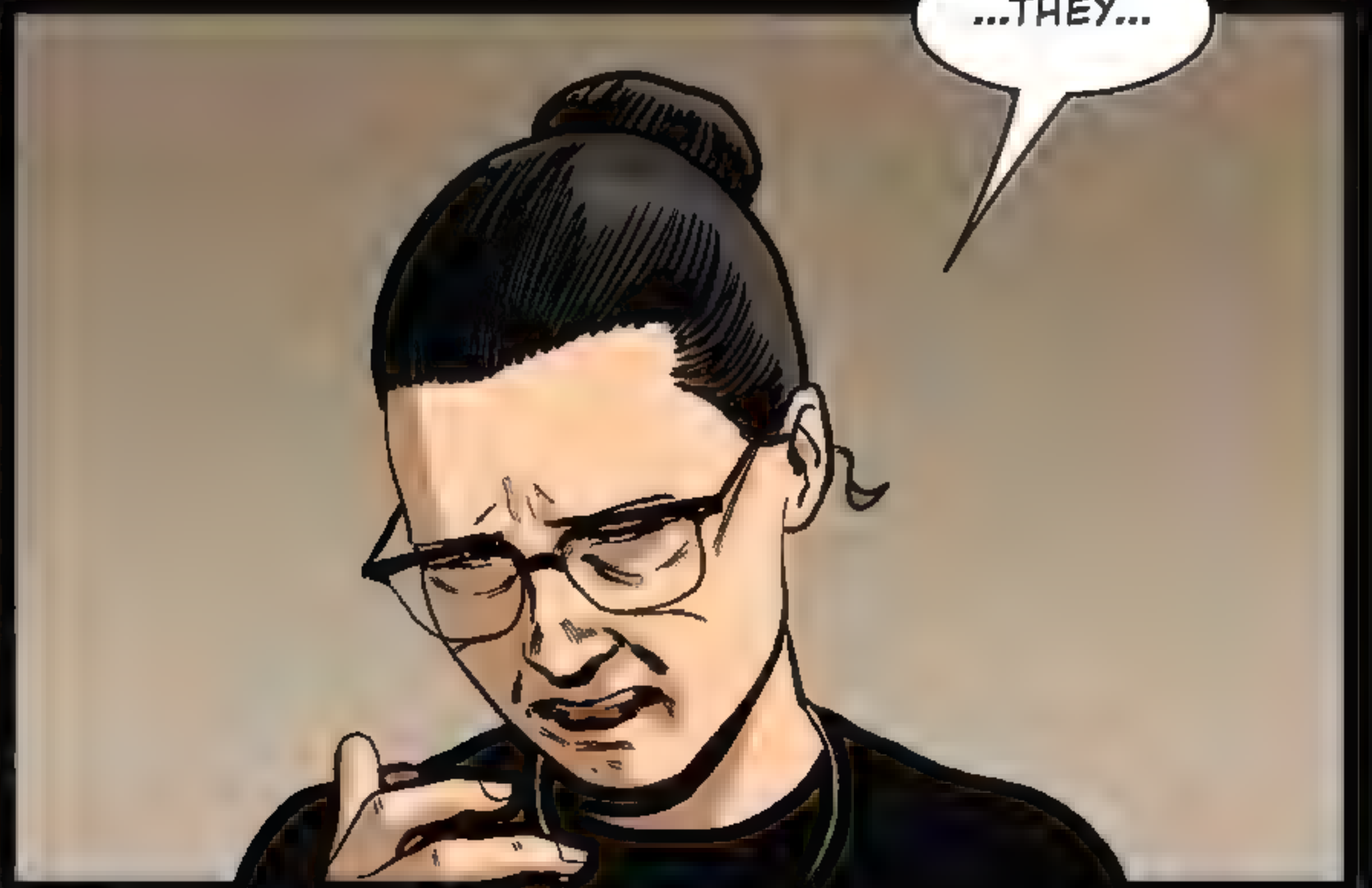
...HE...

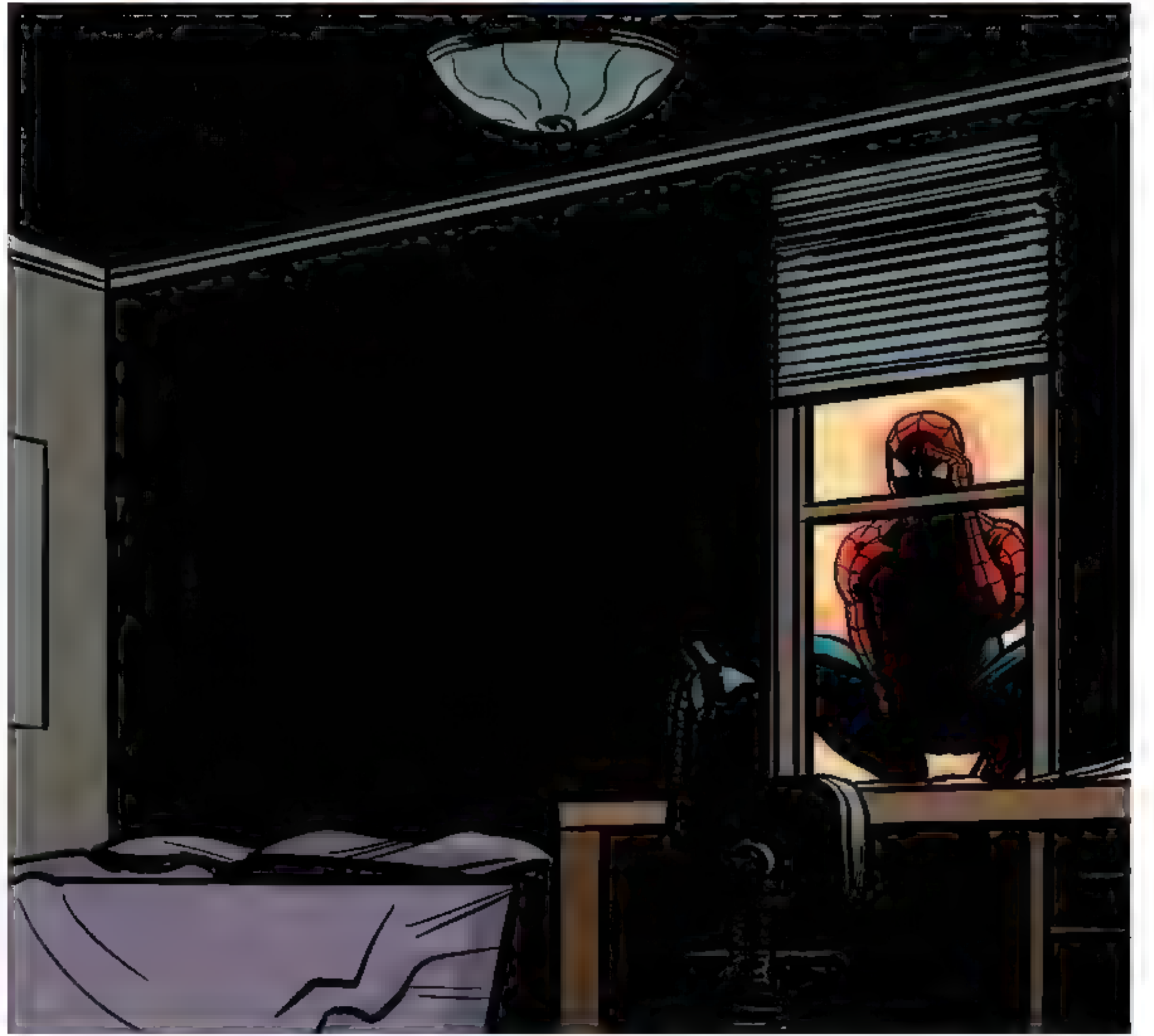


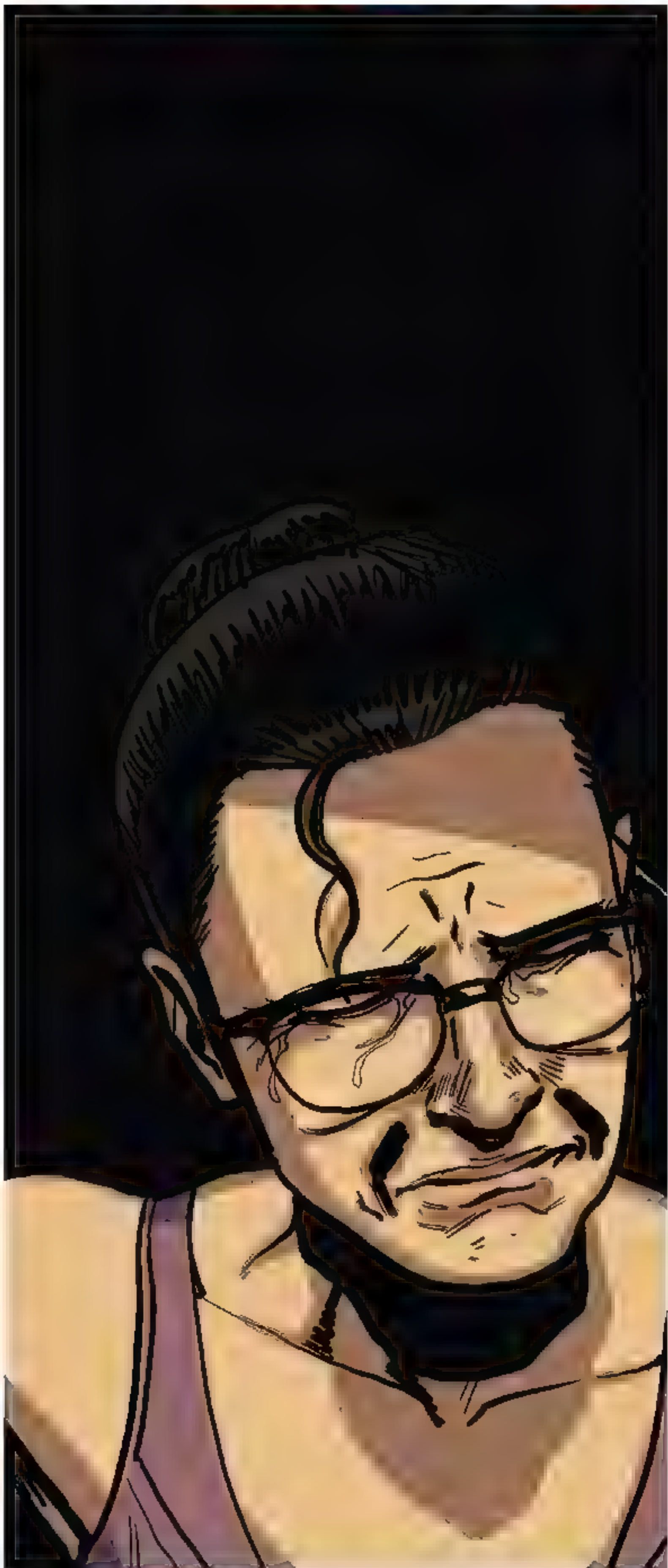
THE GUYS
WHO--THE GUYS
WHO KYLE WORKED
FOR, THEY GOT OUT
ON BAIL...THEY...

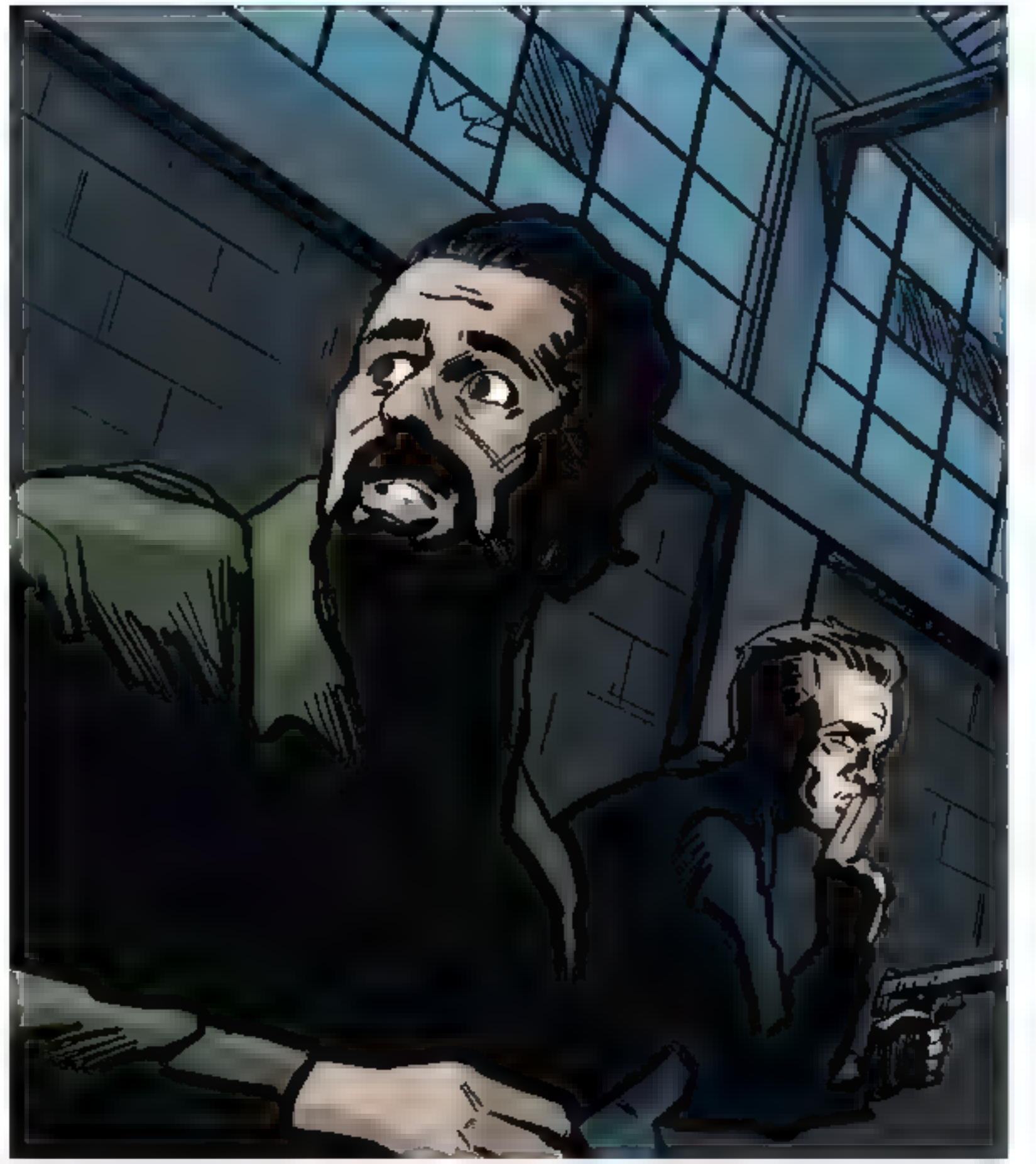
...THEY
THOUGHT
THE COPS
SHOWING
UP WAS HIS
FAULT...

...THEY...

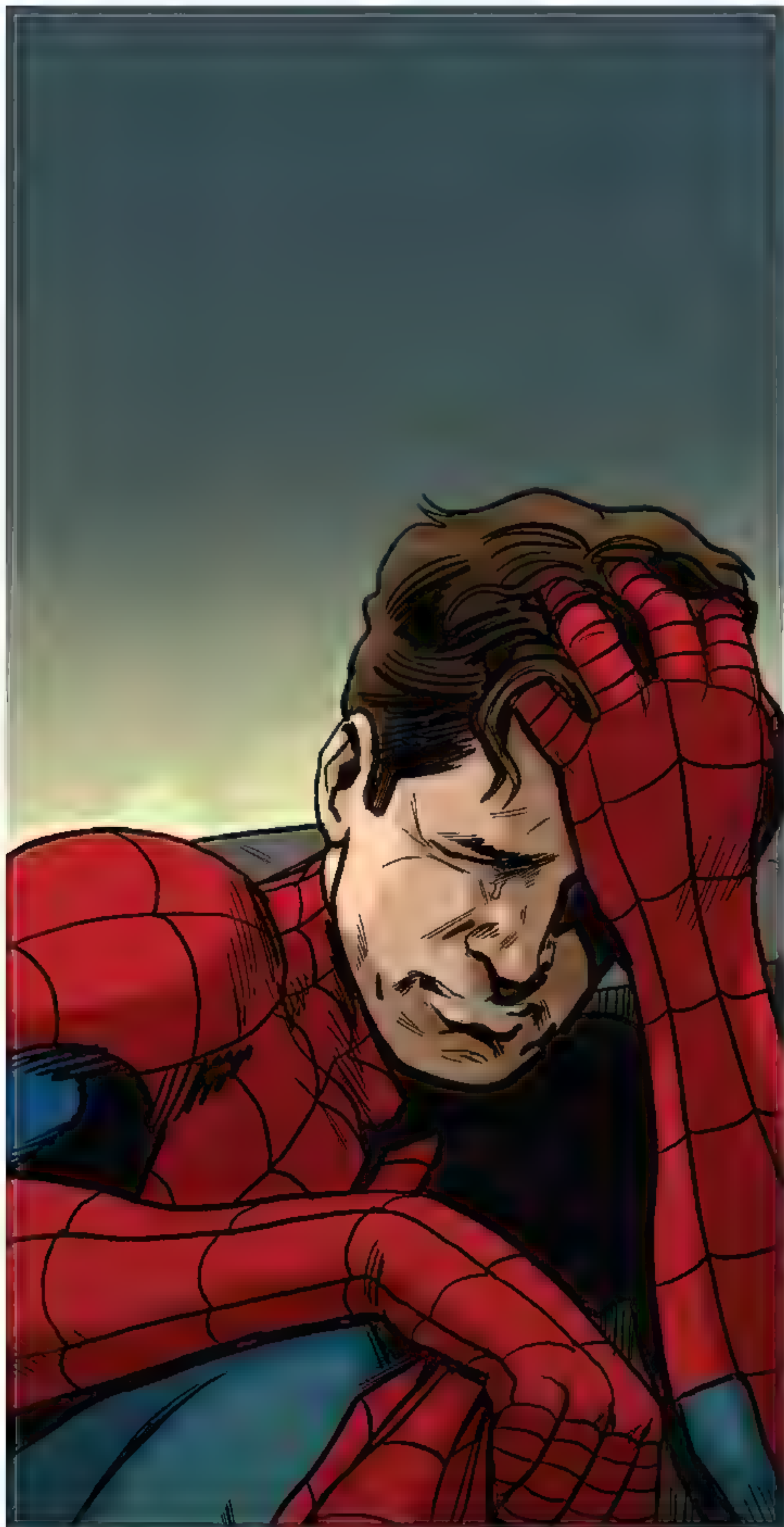
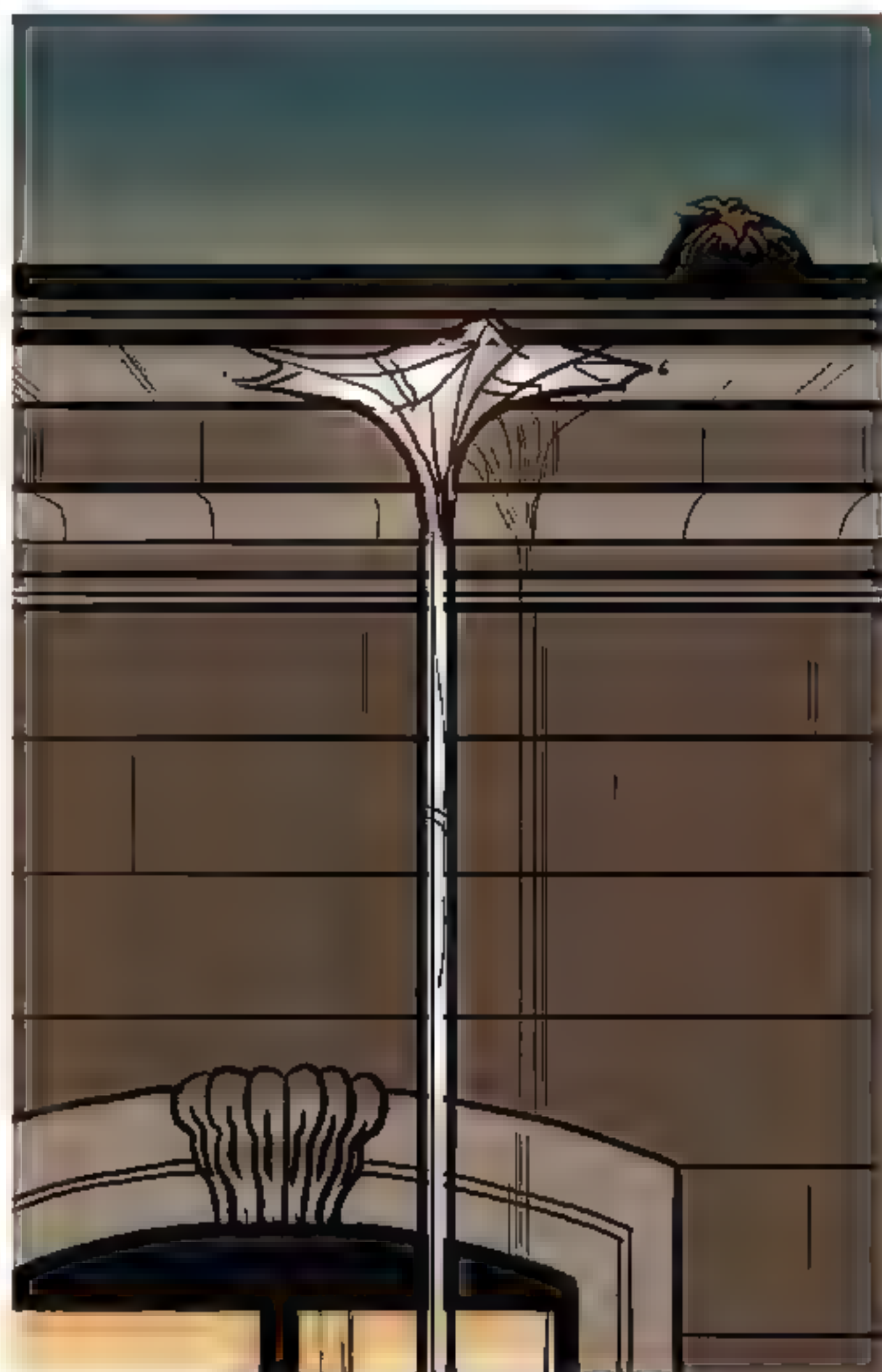












WE LOOK UP
ABOVE AT THE GUY--
THE GUY SWINGING ON
THREADS--AND IT'S HARD
TO...THINK OF HIM AS
A PERSON.

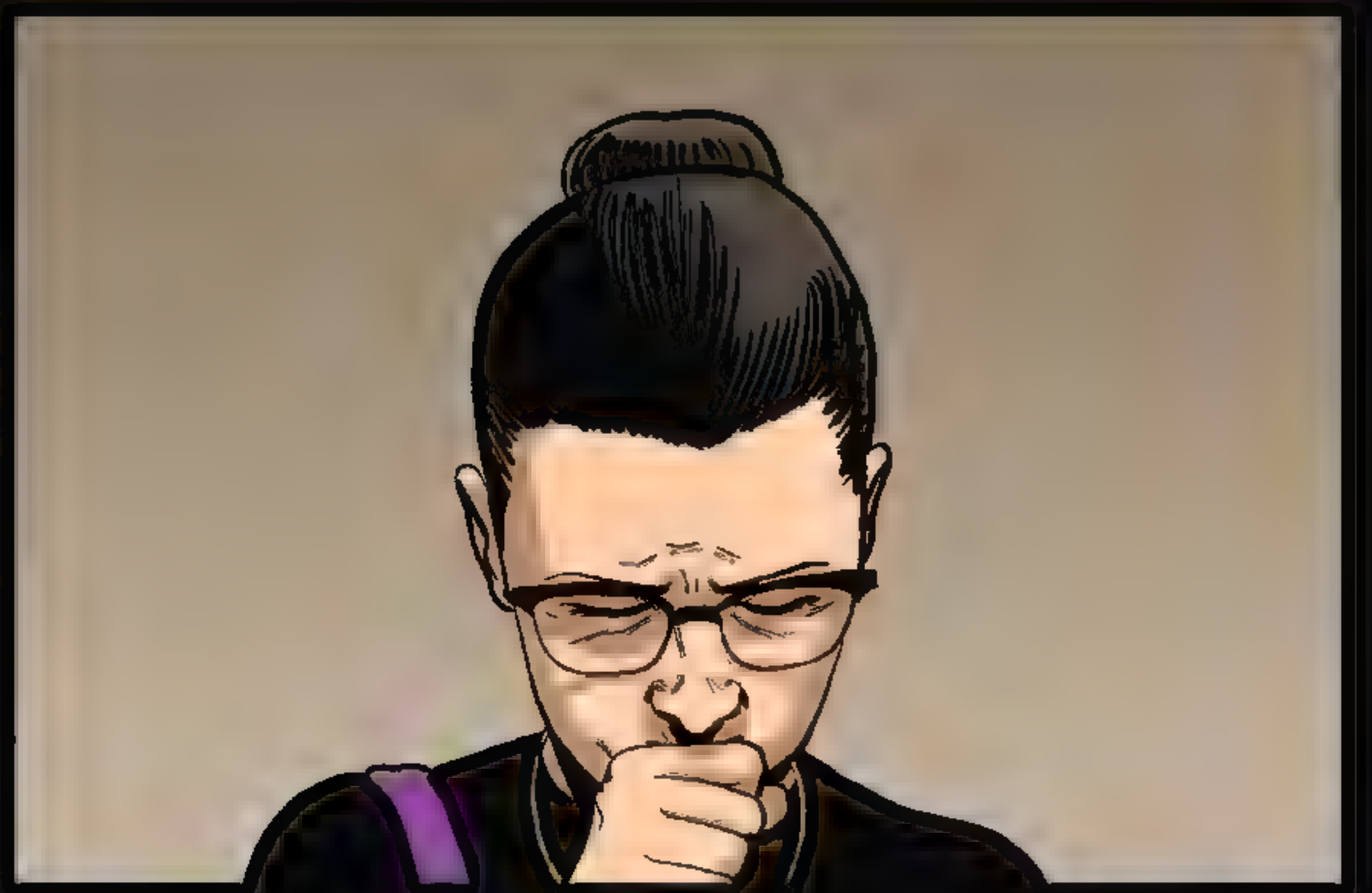
BUT
HE IS.



I'VE SEEN
SPIDER-MAN. I
KNOW SPIDER-MAN.
HE'S JUST...JUST A
GUY WHO WANTS
TO HELP.



HE HELPED
US. HE REALLY
DID. BUT MY BOY...
MY KYLE...
HE'S G--



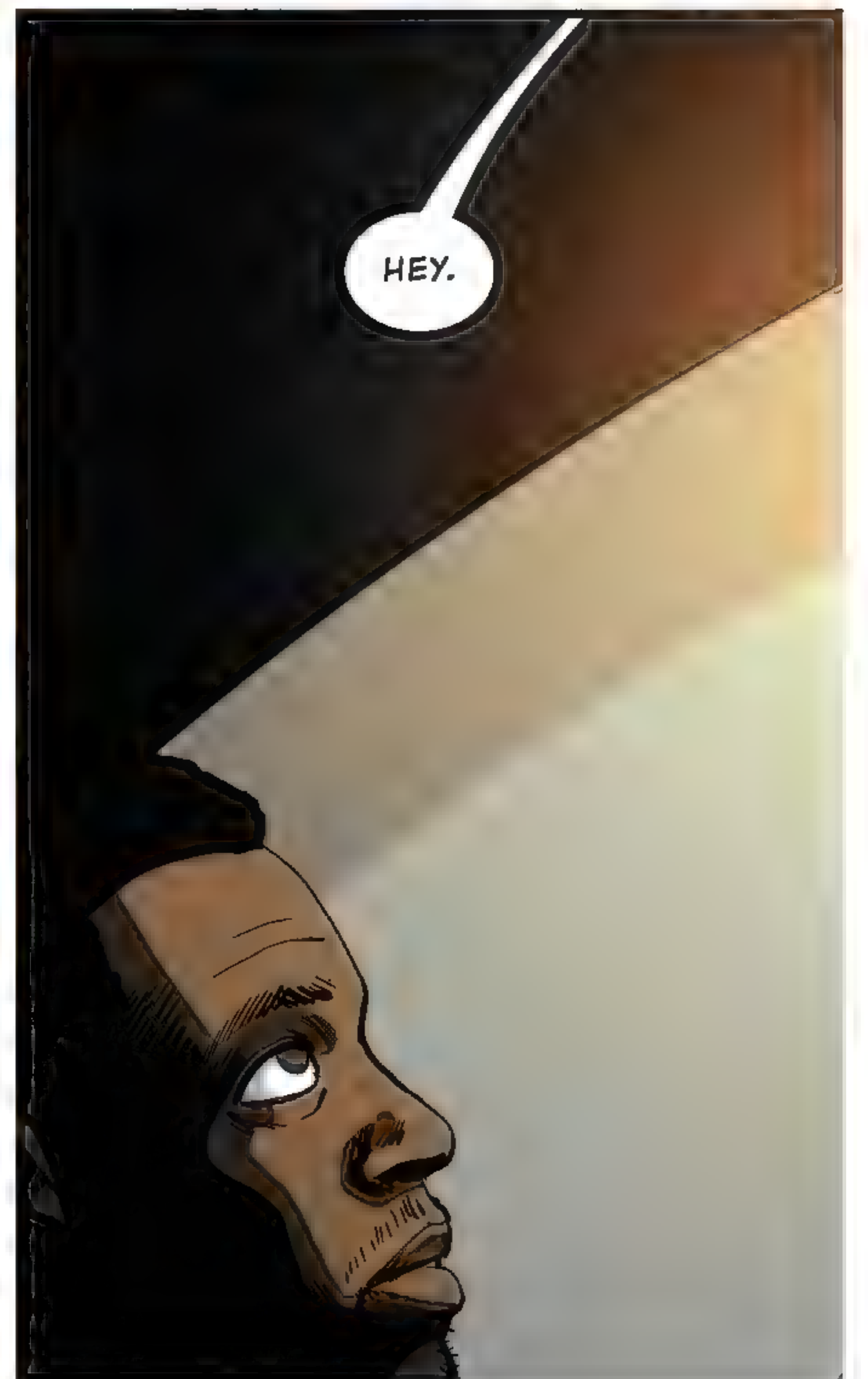
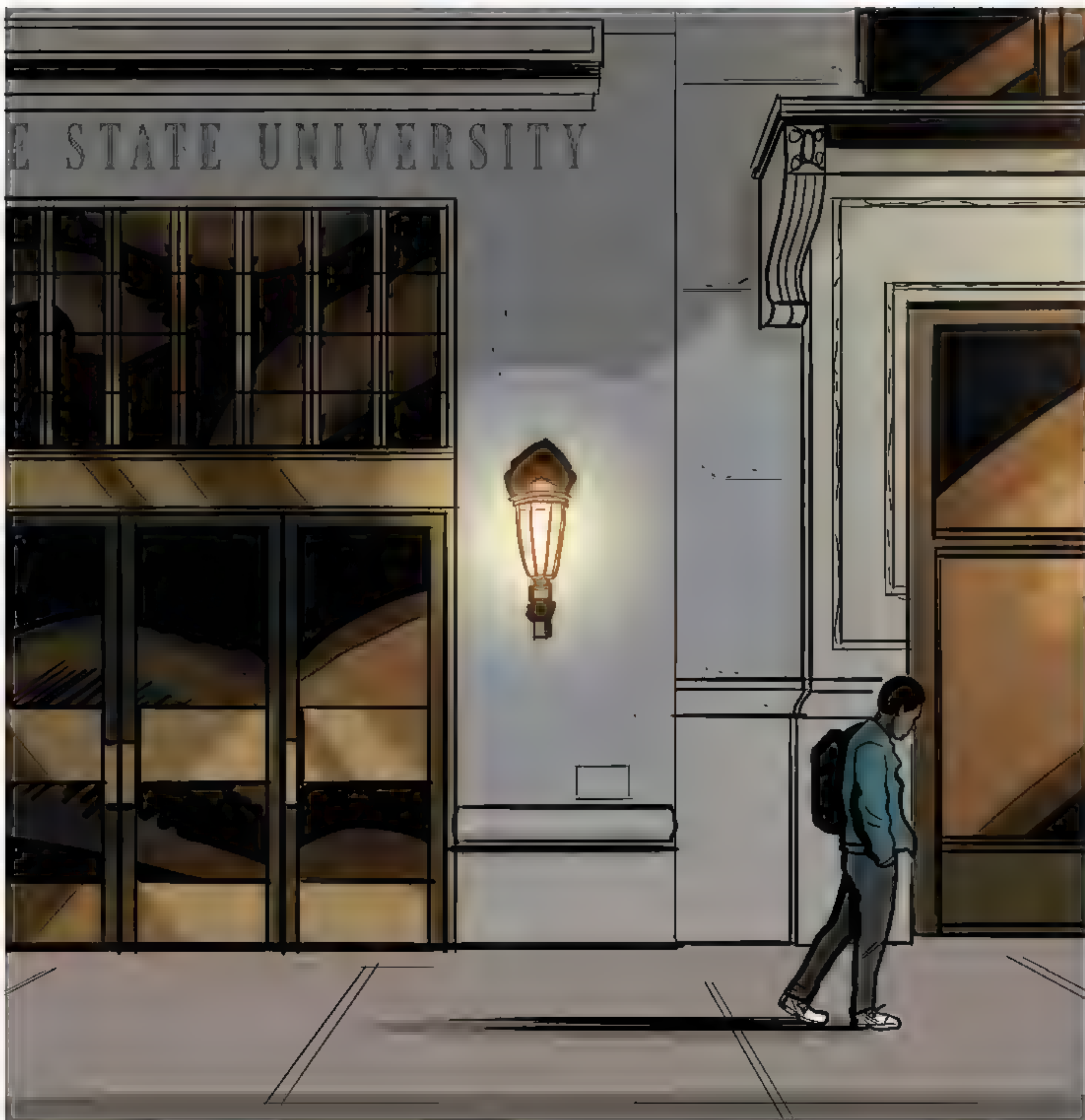
SPIDER-MAN
SAVES PEOPLE.
HE DOES HIS BEST,
EXPECTS NOTHING
BACK...

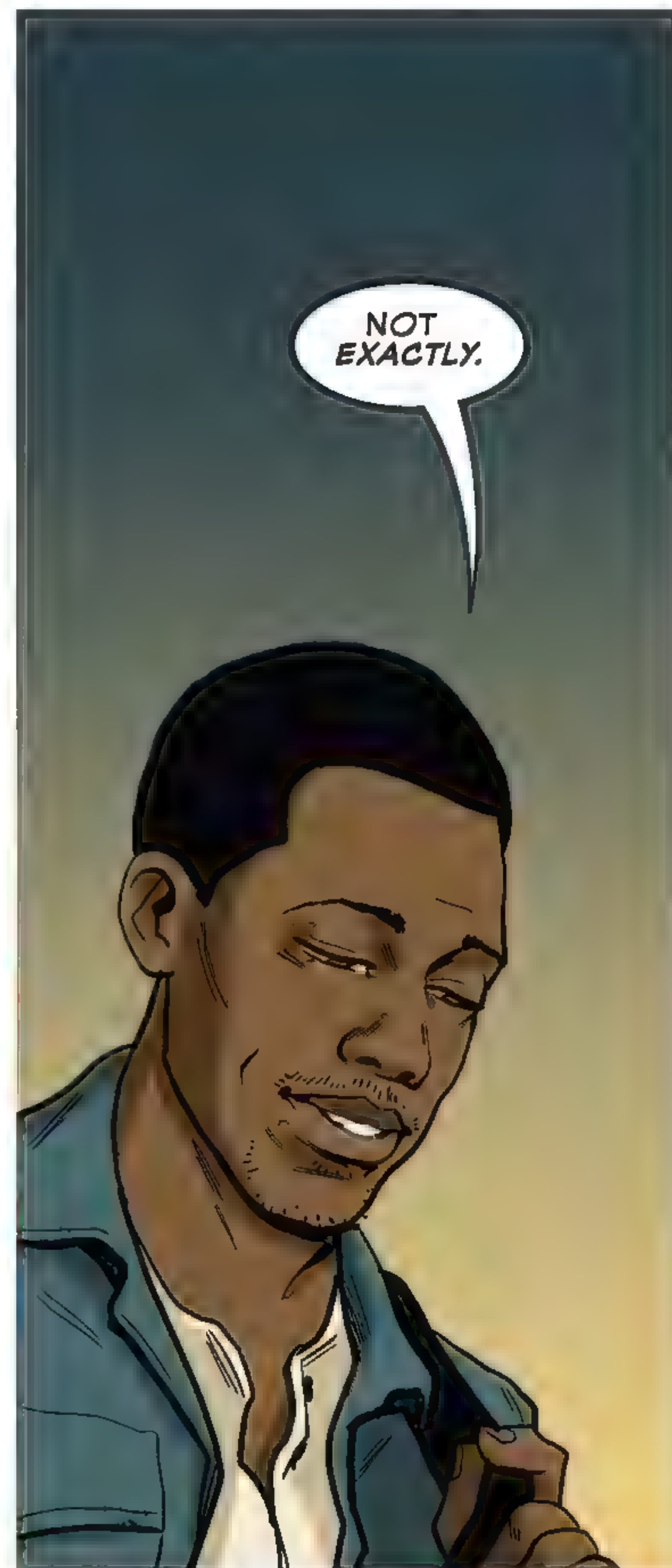
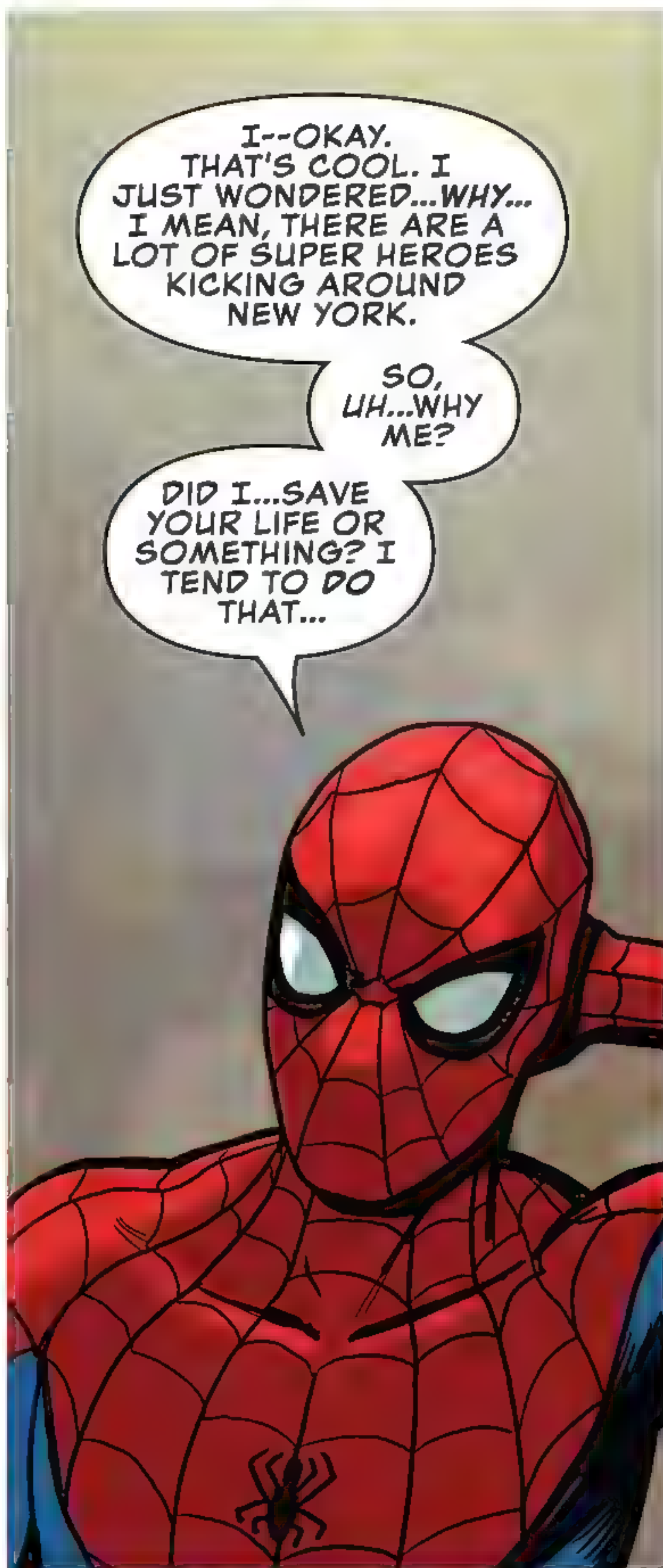
I
THINK...

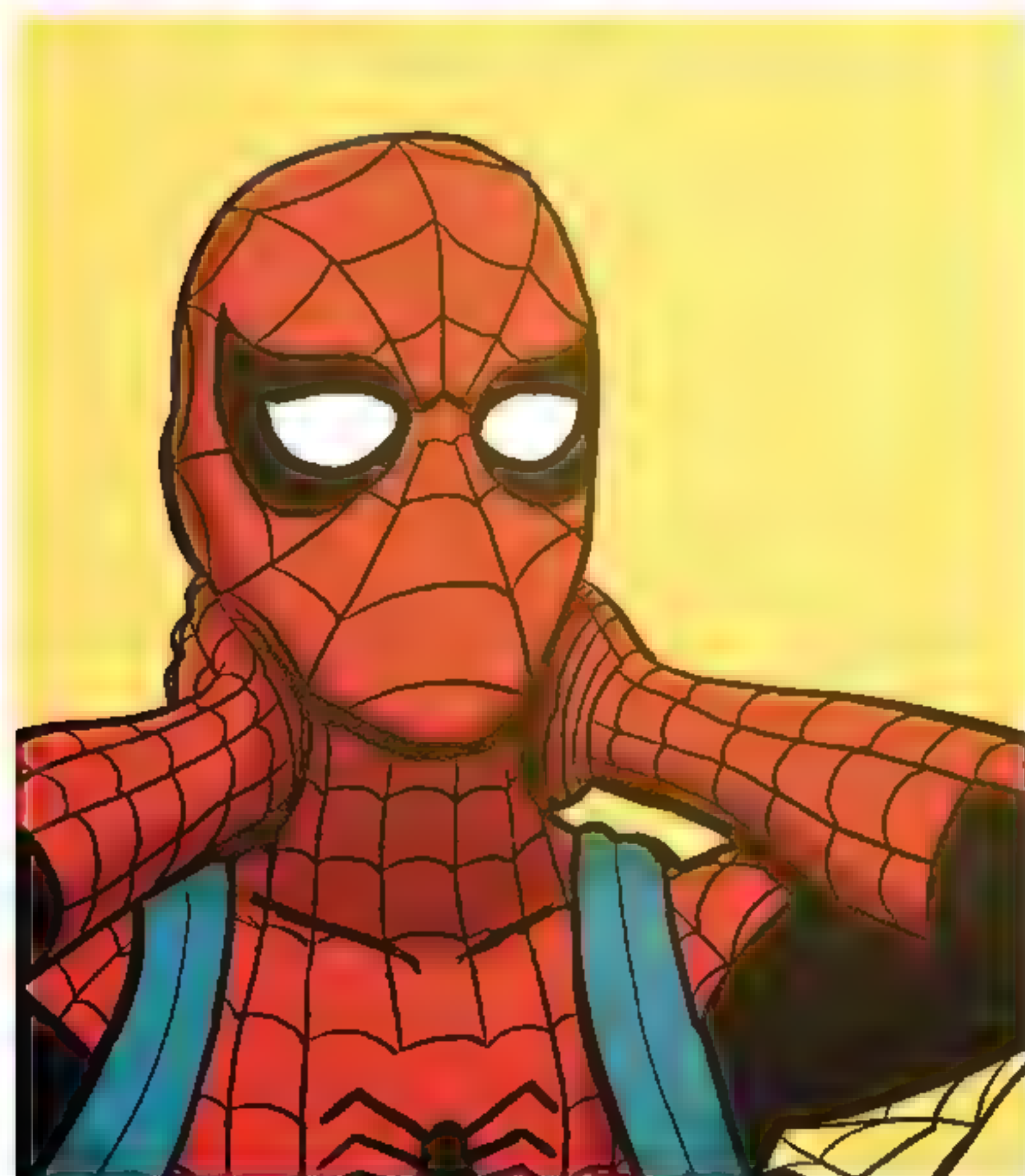


...I THINK
WE SHOULD ALL
BE MORE LIKE
SPIDER-MAN.

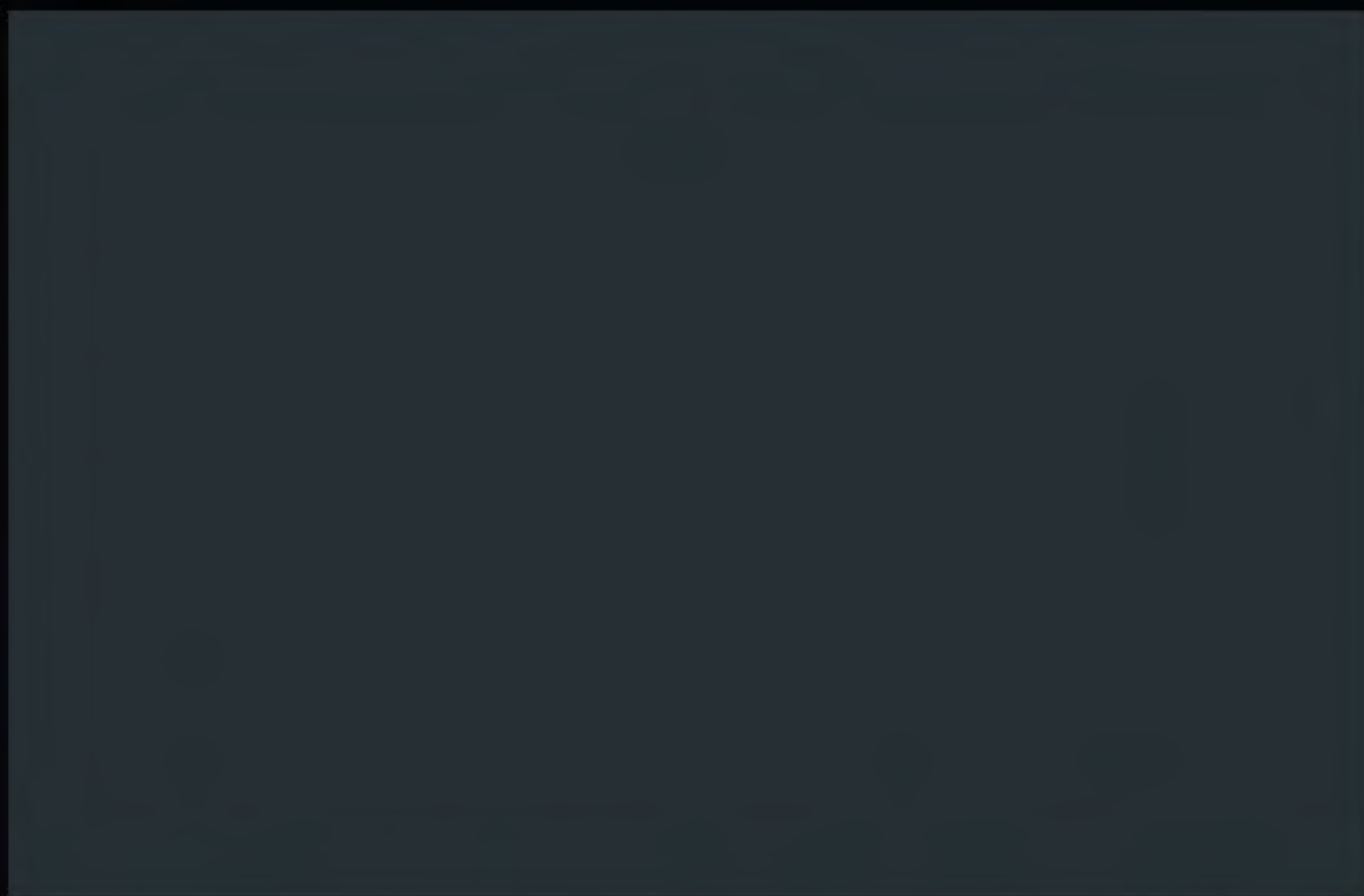
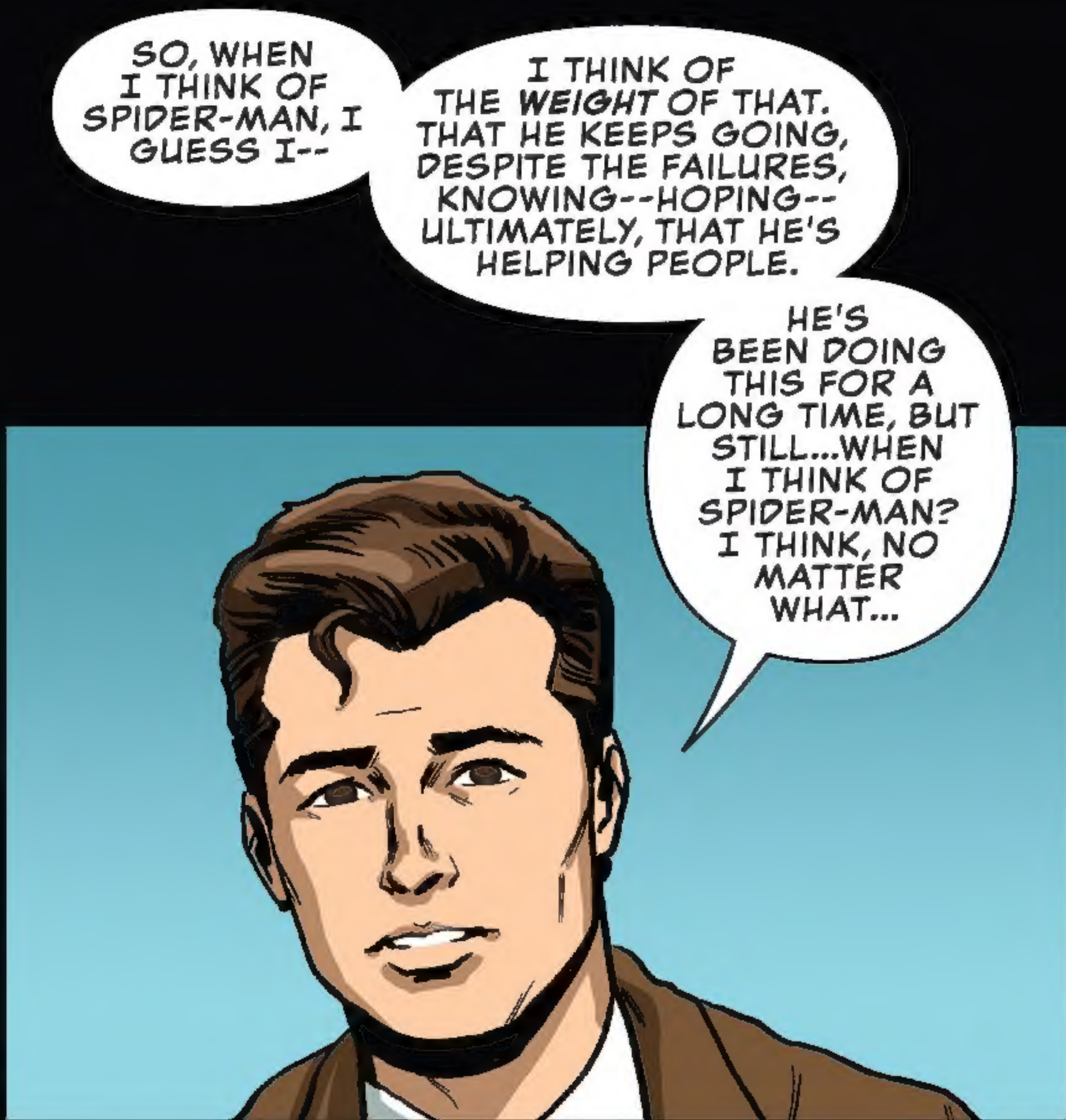
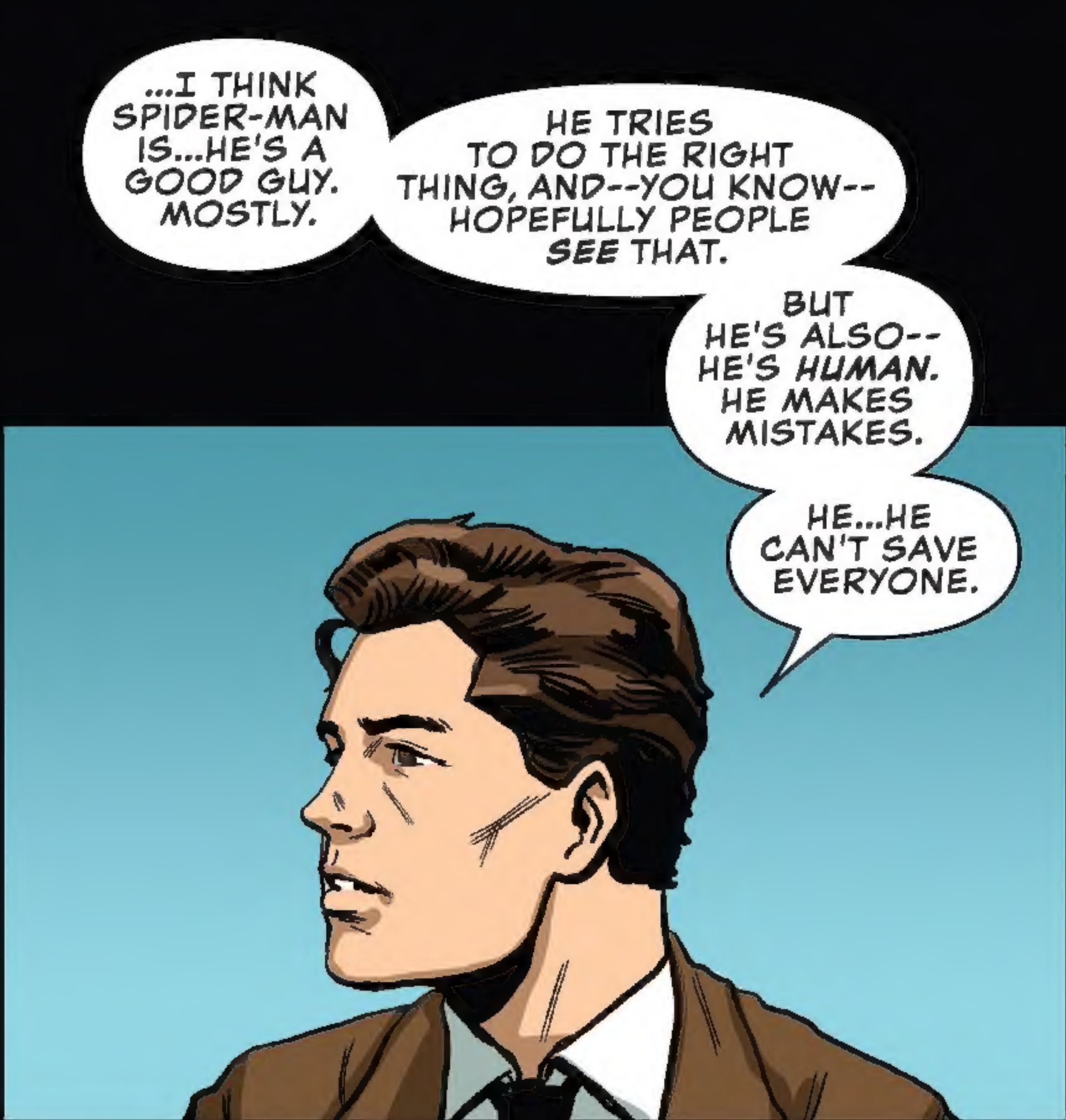
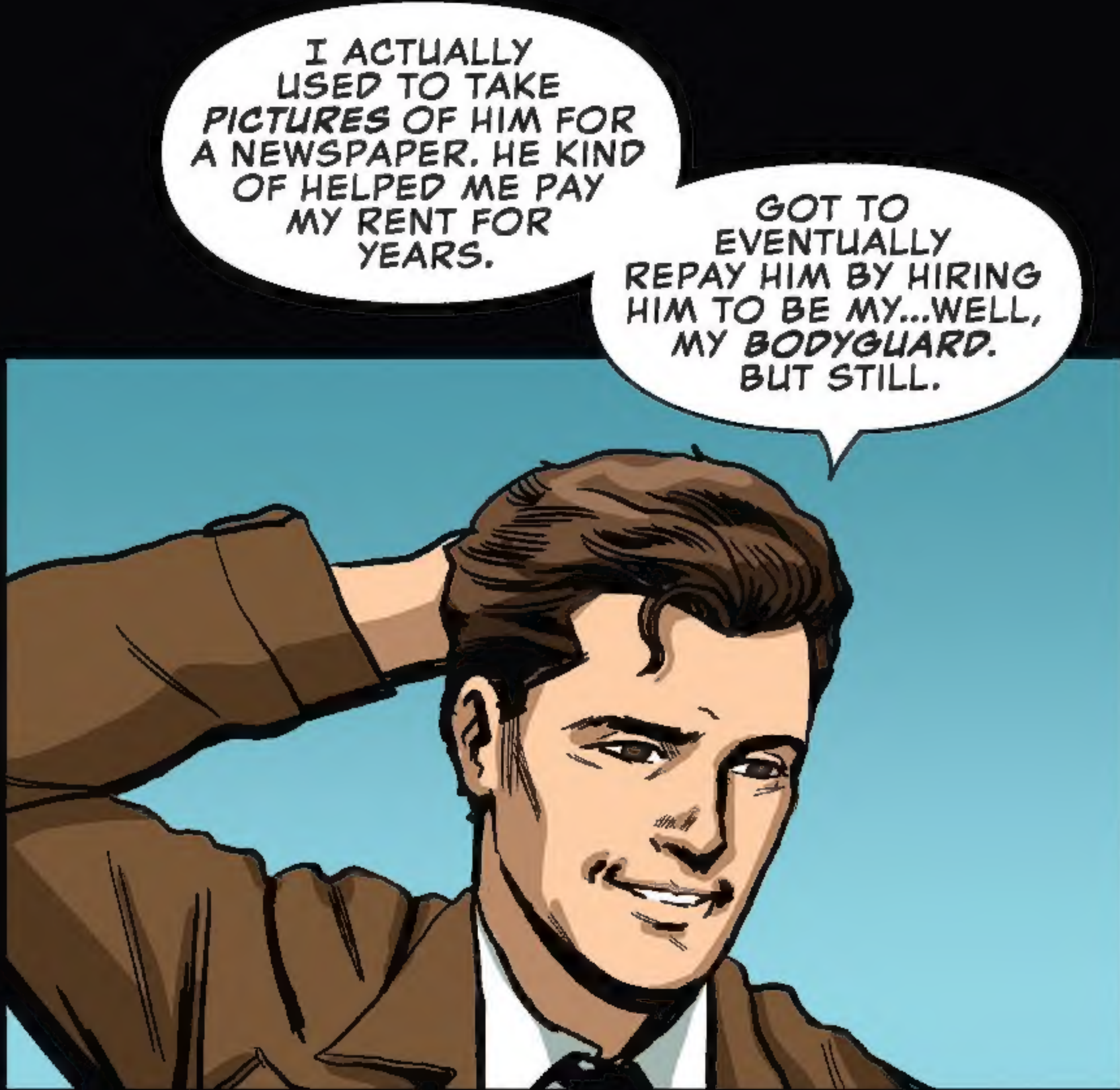












PETER PARKER: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

I love Spider-Man.

I mean, I hope that's obvious. Sometimes as a writer you have to beat up your main character, put them through hell and back, but it's all in service of the story, right? It's because you love Spider-Man and you know that what makes him "Spider-Man" is adversity. It's throwing everything at him and having Spidey come through the other side a little worse for wear but still fighting. Still caring.

Trying to live up to the history of the character and the amazing writers who've come before is the only real adversity you have as a Spider-Man writer. It's a tall shadow ready to suffocate you like a symbiote if you pay too much attention to it.

So I did my best. I tried to tap into the things I love about the character and his stories, learned from the great writers who worked on them, while also putting my own stamp on it. Maybe I succeeded, maybe I didn't. Everyone has their own idea of what Spider-Man should be, and hopefully my version clicked with the one you carried around in your head. They say you should write for yourself, and I did. But I'd be lying if I said I didn't want you to enjoy it as well.

Our book started off with a bang thanks to the unbelievable Adam Kubert, a legend who can spin lifeless words into ingenious kineticism, fresher than any movie or TV adaptation. He was joined later by Juan Frigeri, the kind of fresh new talent that you dream of getting on your book. As our main artists, these guys made SPECTACULAR one of the best-looking books on the shelves, and I'll always be grateful for that.

And our guest artists! Can you believe who we got? Joe Quinones! Mike Allred! Michael Walsh! Chris Bachalo! Goran Parlov! Such a wonderful array of styles from artists at the top of their game, inked by some of the best in the business: Joe Rivera, Paolo Rivera, Tim Townsend, Al Vey, Wayne Faucher, Livesay, and Victor Olazaba. And our color artists Jordie Bellaire, Jason Keith, Jordan Gibson, Ian Herring, Laura Allred, Andrew Crossley, Giada Marchisio, and Nathan Fairbairn perfectly complemented them while our letterer Travis Lanham brought the words to life on the page. How did we end up with such talent on this book?

Well, that's where our editor Nick Lowe and his assistant editors Allison Stock, Devin Lewis, Thomas Groneman, and Kathleen Wisneski came in. Keeping this ship running on time while keeping the standards as high as possible is a monumental task, and this team managed it every month, sometimes twice

in a month! I wish I could convey properly to you how much work goes into these issues, especially from our editors who work tirelessly to put together the best products possible and get them out the door. Just to show how good they are, I've inserted seven mistakes into this statement. I bet they're all gone by the time this goes to press.

Also, I have to thank the other Spider-Writers. Dan Slott was incredibly gracious to the new guy coming in, and gave me the thrill of a lifetime when he incorporated the J. Jonah Jameson status change into his big, final story. One of the best parts about working for Marvel is seeing your work picked up by other creators, and having Dan, one of the greatest Marvel writers of all time, do that was mind-blowing.

One of the things that made the decision to leave so hard was knowing Nick Spencer was going to be on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. Hearing his plans over late-night phone calls made me excited as a reader, but sad as a departing Spidey writer, not getting to play with him on the upcoming storylines. I'm actually jealous of the readers, getting to experience his stories fresh in the issues as they come out. You're in for an amazing ride.

Last, but not least, thanks to you for reading. In a world inundated with movies and TV shows featuring our larger-than-life characters, it's refreshing to open up a comic and see the fruits of a handful of people blowing your mind with the world's longest continued narrative, and the best artists in any medium.

I love Spider-Man, you love Spider-Man and the next writer will absolutely love Spider-Man. Remember that love, and let them tell you a story about your favourite* character.

You're in good hands.

Chip

*Canadian "U" left uncorrected as our thanks to you, Chip! Faithful readers, if you're not already picking up MARVEL 2-IN-ONE by Mr. Zdarsky and Ramón Pérez, you're not just dummies, you're dummies with an excellent new comic to read next month. Peter Parker's AMAZING exploits continue twice a month in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, but his SPECTACULAR adventures also continue next month, as Sean Ryan and the above-mentioned Juan Frigeri throw him into SPIDER-GEDDON! Don't miss it!

See you then!
Kathleen

MARVEL

LEGACY

DON'T MISS

PETER PARKER: THE SPECTACULAR
SPIDER-MAN #311



LET US KNOW HOW WE'RE DOING! Send e-mails to SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM (please mark "OKAY TO PRINT").

